

KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2017 - 4 PM @ BANGS CENTER

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aaron Kropf (Chair), Nancy Pagano (Treasurer/Staff Liaison), Andy Steinberg, (Select Board Liaison), Helen MacMellon (Secretary), Denise Boyd, Tina Swift (Jones Library), Naomi Elliott, Abida Adnan, William Stenzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Jane Watson, Cindy Harbeson (Jones Library)

MINUTES APPROVED from December 6, 2016 meeting. December minutes were written by Naomi Elliott in Helen's absence.

Scheduled February 9, 2017 meeting was cancelled due to snowstorm.

Long-time committee member and former Treasurer, Florence Boynton, recently passed away at age 94, after a very brief illness. The committee remembers and honors all of her numerous contributions over the years. Her memorial service will be March 11th at 11 am at the South Congregational Church. The committee approved \$50 for Tina Swift to use to purchase ingredients for finger sandwiches for Florence's memorial. Tina will add a note that the sandwiches are a donation from the Sister City Committee.

2017 Kanegasaki student visit is scheduled for March 22-26, 2017.

This visit includes both middle schoolers and several high schoolers as well. The visiting Japanese students will meet their host families **Wed., March 22nd at 4:30pm** at the Town Hall meeting room. Abida volunteered to provide light refreshments. Paul Bockelman (Town Manager), Andy Steinberg (Select Board member), Aaron Kropf, (ARHS/Sister City Chairperson) and Denise Boyd, (ARMS/Coordinator of Student Visit) will officially welcome the students with the assistance of Daniel Degrasse (Kanegasaki English teacher) as a translator. A number of committee members volunteered to take the trip chaperones out to Ginger Garden for dinner on **Thursday, March 23rd**. Denise said she has a friend in Pelham who volunteered to cook a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the chaperones on **Friday, March 24th** and Denise and her husband will host the chaperones for dinner at their house on **Saturday, March 25th**. Nancy and Helen volunteered to take the chaperones on a tour **Saturday, March 25th** including stops at Richardson's Chocolate Shop in South Deerfield, the potholes in Shelburne Falls and brunch/lunch at Gould's Sugarhouse for pancakes before returning to join the students at the bowling alley in Shelburne Falls. Denise gave everyone a copy of the detailed schedule of the students' itinerary. The visit will end with a catered brunch for all at **11 am on Sunday, March, 26th** in the middle school cafeteria.

Andy reported that remote voting by Skype will allowed for town committees, but prior approval is required.

Correction to TRIP TO KANEGASAKI discussion in December minutes.

The figure of \$4,000 for 10-12 students should have said **\$4,000 per student** with 10-12 students on the trip.

End of meeting: 5:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: To be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen MacMellon, Secretary